

DRAFT

Governor's Blue Ribbon Water Task Force

Meeting Notes
April 28-29, 2004
Las Cruces, NM

Attendees: Brian Burnett, Estevan Lopez, Bill Hume, Larry Blair, Conci Bokum, Frank Chaves, Wayne Cunningham, Peter Davies, Louis Gariano, Eileen Grevey Hillson, Steve Hernandez, Howard Hutchinson, Sarah Kotchian, G.X. McSherry, and Bob Vocke attended the meeting. Additional attendees included EBID, OSE/ISC, and the NM AG's office.

The next meeting of the BRWTF will be May 26-27 in Albuquerque.

EBID hosted the BRWTF meeting on May 28th and provided a tour of the District on the 29th.

EBID (Gary Esslinger, Phil King, Henry Magallanez, Valerie Beversdorf, Ron Mears, and Steve Hernandez) provided an overview of EBID, which can be found at <http://eweb.lanl.gov/blueribbon.htm>. Additional information on EBID can be found at <http://www.ebid-nm.org/>. EBID covered the following topics during the presentation (see web site for details):

- History;
- Surface water management;
- Groundwater management;
- GIS;
- Web water management; and
- M&I use of agriculture water.

Estevan Lopez distributed and briefly discussed OSE/ISC Significant Accomplishments 2003 (see <http://eweb.lanl.gov/blueribbon.htm>). Accomplishments included:

- State Water Plan;
- Two regional water plans;
- Drought-related activities;
- Technical advances to expedite adjudications;
- Emergency drought management agreement with BoR;
- ESA-related activities;
- Silvery minnow refugium;
- San Juan Basin shortage sharing agreement;
- Proposed Navajo Nation water rights settlement agreement;
- Progress in Indian water rights settlements with San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe, and Tesuque Pueblos;
- Protecting NM's Gila River water during Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act discussions;
- Promoting water conservation education;
- Public outreach efforts;
- Assembling the Lower Rio Grande expert group of attorneys and technical experts; and
- Elephant Butte pilot channel.

Estevan briefly summarized adjudication on the Pecos River focusing on the progress that has been made in the Carlsbad Irrigation District.

The Task Force toured EBID on the morning of April 29th.